Saipan Tribune CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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"Should the CNMI Legislature be made a part-time legislature, with lawmakers getting paid only when they attend sessions and committee meetings?"

INSIDE



Sunset Industry?

Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio called on the Babauta administration and the CNMI Legislature to support him in lobbying for a congressional amendment on the U.S. Tariff Code to reduce the value-added requirement on garment imports for local manufacturers to avail of duty-free treatment.

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New Café

Sipping coffee and enjoying the creamy taste of New York-style blueberry cheesecake at the new outlet of Tan Marikita's Café is a luxurious treat—good enough reason to visit the Garapan tourist district.

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Four more years



President Bush and first lady Laura Bush stand on stage at a victory rally Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2004, at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington.

CNMI celebrates Bush re-election

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

CNMI leaders hailed yesterday the reelection of U.S. President George W. Bush, believing that it will ultimately be good for the CNMI.

Gov. Juan N. Babauta described the Nov. 2 elections as "amazing," and "a referendum on President Bush's policies." "I stayed up late at night to watch the result. It's really an amazing election. I think this is a referendum on President Bush's policies on every level—from the war on terror to all the social and economic policies. I say referendum because he won this election by nearly four million popular votes. When you compare that four years ago when he ran against Al Gore, he lost by 500,000

popular votes. Four years later, he won re-election by nearly four million over and above four years ago. To me that's a true mandate," Babauta said.

He acknowledged that Bush's firm positions on certain social and moral issues boosted his standing among the Bible-belt states.

Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente, who said See CNMI on Page 12

By RON FOURNIER

AP POLITICAL WRITER

resident Bush claimed a reelection mandate Wednesday after a record 59 million Americans chose him over Democrat John Kerry and voted to expand Republican control of Congress as well. He pledged to pursue his agenda on taxes and Iraq while seeking "the broad support of all Americans."

Kerry conceded defeat in make-orbreak Ohio rather than launch a legal fight reminiscent of the contentious Florida recount of four years ago. "I hope that we can begin the healing," the Massachusetts senator said.

Claiming a second term denied his father, George H.W. Bush, the president struck a conciliatory tone, too. "A new term is a new opportunity to reach out to the whole nation," he said, speaking directly to Kerry's supporters.

"To make this nation stronger and better, I will need your support and I will work to earn it," he said. "I will do all I can do to deserve your trust."

It was a warm-and-fuzzy close to one of the longest, most negative presidential races in a generation.

Bush didn't use the word mandate, but Vice President Dick Cheney did, and the president's intention was clear as he ticked off a familiar list of second-term goals: overhaul the tax code and Social Security at home while waging war in Iraq and elsewhere to stem terror.

See FOUR on Page 12

Kerry says it's time to begin nat'l healing

BOSTON (AP)—Sen. John Kerry brought his long White House campaign to an end Wednesday, conceding the presidential election to George W. Bush and saying the time had come to "begin the healing."

"I'm sorry that we got here a little bit late and a little bit short," said a hoarse and stoic Kerry, noting that he had called Bush earlier at the White House and said they had a "good conversation."

"In America, it is vital that every vote count .. but the outcome should be decided by voters, not a protracted legal fight," Kerry said. "I would not give up this fight if there was a chance that we would prevail."

See KERRY on Page 12

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Local

RP working on hosting NCLEX exam for nurses

By AGNES E. DONATO

Continental Airlines is facing a new marketing challenge amid reports that the U.S. licensure ex-

be offered in the Philippines.
Wally Dias, Continental staff
vice president for sales and

amination for nurses may soon

marketing, noted that Philippine nurses taking the National Council Licensure Examination, or NCLEX, on island form a significant percentage of passengers availing of the airline's nonstop Saipan-Manila service.

But with the possibility of the NCLEX being offered in the Philippines, Dias said Continental would have to step up efforts to promote the direct flights to markets other than NCLEX examinees.

"That will be a challenge. As you know, we do have a number of [nurses] that visit Saipan for the NCLEX test," Dias said. "We're aware that [the NCLEX being offered in the Philippines] is possibly going to happen. We're look-

ing at ways at replacing those customers with more tourist customers."

Marianas Visitors Authority chair David Sablan noted that the conduct of the licensure examination on Saipan has "helped enhance tourism to our island."

"I would like to see it continue. We have to study what it will take to continue that program, especially now that

Continental has increased the frequency of its Saipan-Manila flights," Sablan said.

Starting this week, the airline will operate the previously twice-weekly service three times a week. Passengers now have the option to fly every Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday.

Data from the U.S. National Council of State Boards of Nursing showed that Filipino nurses compose majority of internationally educated NCLEX examinees.

A total of 7,786 Philippine nurses took the NCLEX in the first three quarters of 2004. This figure is over four times the number of Canadian examinees, who ranked second with respect to volume. India came third with 1,484 examinees, followed by South Korea with 974.

Currently, Philippine nurses take the NCLEX on Saipan or obtain a U.S. tourist visa and travel to Guam of the United States to sit for the exam.

Taking the test on Saipan, however, has proven more convenient, as the Northern Marianas does not require a U.S. tourist visa for NCLEX examinees.

Starting Jan. 1, 2005, the NCLEX will be administered at three pilot "international test centers"—Hong Kong, London, and Seoul.

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing said other locations may be added later.

The NCSBN has set the following criteria for selecting testing sites: (1) national security, including economic climate; (2) examination security; (3) similarity of local laws with U.S. intellectual property and copyright laws; (4) person locations with high-stakes testing; (5) numbers and locations of internationally educated nurses; (6) regional accessibility; (7) number of U.S. military personnel and dependents; and (8) similarity of local nursing educational system to U.S. nursing educational system.

A report on the Philippine newspaper *The Freeman* affirmed that plans are now underway to hold the NCLEX in that country.

It quoted Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs officials as saying that the Philippine Nurses Association of America and the Philippine Consulate General in New York are now working on bringing the exam to the Philippines.

Last month, the New York Consulate and the nurses association met with Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto G. Romulo to formally present the association's request for government support to make the Philippines a licensure examination site, the report adds.

Romulo, who was in New York for the 59th Session of the UN General Assembly, reportedly promised to act on the request.

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DO IT BEST



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Call out for artworks

The Community and Cultural Affairs' Office of the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture is seeking artworks from visual and contemporary artists to submit for the upcoming Island Artists and Christmas Crafts Exhibit scheduled to open on Nov. 12, 2004 at the CNMI Gallery for Arts and Culture, next to the Post Office in Capitol Hill.

The deadline for submission of artworks will be on Monday, Nov. 8, 2004.

The Arts Council is inviting all visual and contemporary artists to register and participate in the annual exhibit specifically highlighting the many arts and crafts in the CNMI.

Interested artists should submit their works at the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Cultures Office, Capitol Hill, from 8am to 4:30pm. Registration forms are available and participation is free.

For more information, contact Sinfo Pinaula or Janelle DL Guerrero at 322-9982 or 322-9983.

Mayor's Office offers utility subsidy

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela announced last week the availability of funds under the Mayor's Utility Assistance Program to help qualified residents pay for one month of their overdue power bill.

This is a federally funded program available to residents of the Municipality of Saipan who are unable to bring their power account current with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Applications can be picked up at the Saipan Mayor's Office at Afetnas Square in San Antonio during regular working hours, Monday to Friday, from 7:30am to 11:30am and from 12:30pm to 4pm.

For more information call the Saipan Mayor's Office at 234-6208 or 234-6280 and ask for Florence Camacho-Stephens or Regina Torres.

OWWA Health Screening **Program for OFWS**

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration is reminding the Filipino community of the Health Screening Program to be conducted this Nov. 7, 2004, 9am to 12noon, at the Nauru Building, Susupe. We would like to advise the members of the Filipino community who wish to be tested for blood sugar levels to fast (no food or water) from midnight of Nov. 6, 2004 up to the time of testing.

Veterans Day proclamation signing set

Nov. 11, 2004, is Veterans Day—a time to honor those who served and are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Gov. Juan N. Babauta will be signing the Veterans Week proclamation at the Governor's Conference Room on Nov. 8, 2004 at 11am.

"We will remember those who served our great nation so that we may enjoy the fruits of freedom of a democratic society. We ask that all veterans, active and reserve military members, their families, family members of those departed veterans, the local Marine Scouts and the general public to come and join us for the signing of this proclamation," a statement from the Governor's Office said.

Marriage Encounter weekend set

The Worldwide Marriage Encounter Organization has announced the upcoming ME Weekend scheduled from Nov. 19 though 21 for married couples who want to improve communication and strengthen their marriage.

The weekend is open to all married couples regardless of age. The special weekend will be held at the Hotel Rivera Saipan in Fina Sisu. The registration fee is only \$50 per couple and includes room for the weekend, all meals and drinks.

The organization explained that the weekend is intended to focus "on your relationship between you and your spouse and on your relationship with God.

For registration or more information, contact Ben & Lovey Salas at 235-2250; Russ & Kanae Quinn at 256-1058 or Sean & Ericka Frink at 322-9990.

OES PTSA meeting set

The PTSA Officers of Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of Oleai Elementary School that the PTSA meeting will be on Tuesday, Nov. 9, 6pm, in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Bartenders' competition set

The Northern Marianas Bartenders Association will be hosting another cocktail competition dubbed the Bartender Cocktail Competition Grand Marnier Challenge on Nov. 9, 2004 at the Madonna Disco of the Saipan Grand Hotel.

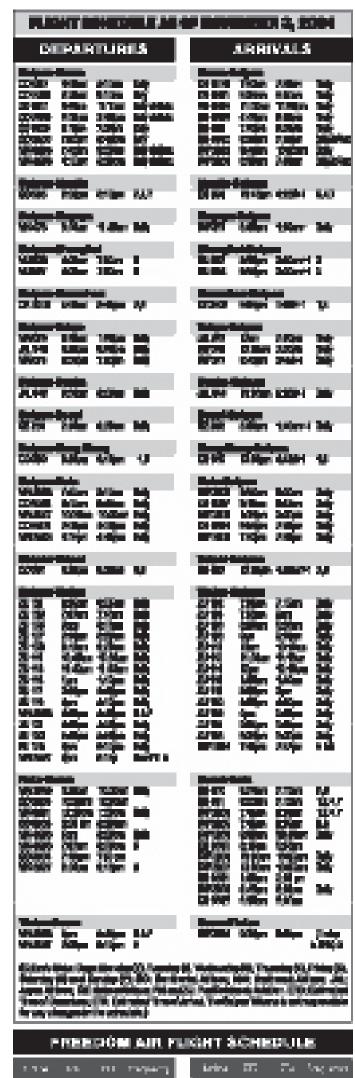
NMBA president Lito Espino said the event will have an entrance fee of \$10 per participant.

The competition, slated to begin at 8:30pm, includes over \$400 in total cash prizes, to go along with other prizes for winners.

Espino said each company will be limited to two representatives in the competition. Presentations will be judged 20 percent on originality, 30 percent on taste, 30 percent on showmanship, 10 percent on neatness, and 10 percent on audience impact.

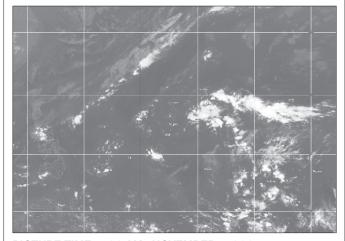
The champion will receive \$150 plus a round trip from Saipan to Manila and a cellular phone, while first and second runners up will receive \$100 and \$50. Best in Show earns \$100 plus a cellular phone.

For more information, contact Espino at 286-9982 or email nmba Saipan@yahoo.com.



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WEATHER FORECAST



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 AM., NOVEMBER 4, 2004

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level low is located well east of the Mariana Islands near 16n153e. Its associated surface reflection...an inverted low pressure trough...stretches from 10n153e to 20n156e. The combination of these two features are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 10n and 20n from 152e to 160e. Another surface low pressure trough extends from eq156e to 13n171e. Convergent lowlevel winds into the trough is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Kosrae State and portions of the Marshall islands between the equator and 10n from 160e to 173e. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near wake between 16n and 20n from 160e to 173e. A tiny low-level circulation near Palau is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 7n and 9n from 134e to 136e. Low-level convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms with 30 miles of a line from 17n130e to 25n140e



SAIPAN AND TINIAN

Partly cloudy with scattered showers & a slight chance of thunderstorms.

Winds: Light and variable winds.

Temperature: Highs around 86. Lows around 76.



GUAM AND ROTA

Partly cloudy with scattered showers & a slight chance of thunderstorms.

Winds: Light and variable winds.

Temperature: Highs around 86. Lows around 76.

PALAU

Lows 79

Partly cloudy with isolated Winds: East at 5 kt. Highs 89

POHNPEI Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Winds: Northeast at 5-10 kt.

Highs 88 Lows 74

YAP AND ULITHI

Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Winds: East at 5 kt. Highs 88 Lows 78



KOSRAE

showers. Winds: Northeast at 5 kt. Highs 82 Lows 77

CHUUK

Highs 84 Lows 79

Tokyo, Japan

Washington, DC

Mostly cloudy with isolated Winds: Northeast at 10-15 kt.



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Winds: Northeast at 5-10 kt. Highs 87 Lows 82

G	ITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
A	uckland	Partly Cloudy	60F (16C)	48F (9C)
<i>B</i>	eijing	Rain	55F (13C)	34F (1C)
黨 H	ong Kong	Sunny	79F (26C)	70F (21C)
? ;;	onolulu	Showers	86F (30C)	74F (23C)
<u></u>	ondon, England	Partly Cloudy	57F (14C)	46F (8C)
黨 Lo	os Angeles	Sunny	74F (23C)	51F (11C)
	lanila	Partly Cloudy	86F (30C)	70F (21C)
₩ M	lelbourne	Sunny	76F (24C)	46F (13C)
∰ N	liami	Sunny	84F (29C)	70F (21C)
‡ N	ew York City	Sunny	60F (16C)	45F (7C)
1 0	saka	Partly Cloudy	59F (15C)	46F (8C)
P	aris	Cloudy	56F (13C)	38F (3C)
∰ P	usan	Sunny	68F (20C)	52F (11C)
Ĉ₄ R	ome	Partly Cloudy	68F (20C)	54F (12C)
S	alem	Showers	56F (13C)	44F (7C)
∰ S	an Francisco	Sunny	65F (18C)	50F (10C)
∷ S	eoul	Sunny	59F (15C)	38F (3C)

Partly Cloudy

44F (7C)

49F (9C)

58F (14C)

'Competitiveness is key to survival of NMI garment industry'

First of two parts

By JOHN RAVELO REPORTER

Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio called on the Babauta administration and the CNMI Legislature to support him in lobbying for a congressional amendment on the U.S. Tariff Code to reduce the value-added requirement on garment imports for local manufacturers to avail of duty-free treatment.

Tenorio aired the concern after attending the Saipan Chamber of Commerce meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Wednesday, where garment industry players made elaborate presentations on the bleak future of the CNMI's premier industry once quota restrictions are lifted beginning Jan. 1, 2004.

The U.S. Tariff Code requires that 50 percent of the value of the garment has to be added locally by transformation, in terms of additional labor, packaging or other overhead costs, so that garment products coming from U.S. exporters like the Commonwealth could enter the United States duty-free.

The Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association has been pushing for the reduction of the value-added requirement to 30 percent to help Saipan factories improve its competitiveness in the world market, amid big players such as China.

"I need these people to mobilize their support," Tenorio said. "I want this to be a government effort rather than a private one."

SGMA executive director Richard Pierce anticipated that there would be a slow and gradual withdrawal of orders to Saipan factories when quota restrictions are lifted. "Unlike what has been characterized by the CNMI government, duty-free entry into the U.S. market is not enough of an advantage to maintain factories in Saipan. The loss of quota restrictions on other countries puts our factories in jeopardy like many other countries' factories," Pierce said.

"Without doing a single thing to lift a hand to protect the factories, they will decrease in numbers and in volume and in sales by 30 percent within one year," he added.

Pierce said reduction in factory sales has become inevitable and would substantially impact on government revenue and the economy. Citing a study based on 2001 figures, a 30-percent decline in garment sales would result in a loss of \$34.74 million in taxes and fees and local sales. Direct taxes and fees from the industry that will be lost will amount to some \$19.8 million.

If garment sales drop by 20 percent, total losses would reach some \$23.16 million; if the decline is about 10 percent, losses would amount to \$11.58 million; and if sales dropped by 8 percent, \$9.08 million.

Last October, Pierce said fees amounted to just \$2.2 million, the second lowest monthly total since 1997 and the lowest for the month since 1996.

Industry should be competitive

Doug Rogers, vice president for business administration for Polo Ralph Lauren Sourcing Co. Ltd., underscored the bleak fate of the industry if it could not maintain its competitiveness once quota restrictions are lifted.

Polo has been sourcing mil-

lions of garments from Saipan factories in the last 12 years. He said that Polo would source its garments where they are competitive, without compromising quality. He expressed uncertainty as to which factories would survive when quota restrictions are lifted.

Globally, Polo sources over 80 million units per year. These include clothing for men, women and kids; accessories; home furnishings; luggage; and eyewear.

Rogers said these are sourced from 278 factories in 31 countries, 76 of which are in China. He highlighted the increasing number of U.S. imports from China from 2001 to 2003, noting a 1,796 percent growth.

Without the lifting of quota restrictions, Rogers already

noted that China has risen as the number one garment supplier to the world's most lucrative market, the United States. In 2003, China enjoyed a 12.5 percent market share in the United States, when the latter's garment imports reached \$18.864 billion.

Mexico followed China with its 10.4 percent market share, while Honduras ranked third with a market share of 6.1 percent. In 24 months, Rogers predicted highly populated India to become a competitive player that would make it into the top ten.

Rogers illustrated how competitive China is in terms of pricing. In 2003, the actual cost of a piece of knit shirt in China was only \$2.82; in Hong Kong, \$1.23. For cotton trou-

sers, the actual cost per piece in China was \$4.30; in Hong Kong, \$1.43. Since 1997, China ranked no lower than the top four garment exporters to the Unites States, he said.

Although domestic industry players are pushing for safeguards from China's dominance, Rogers noted that they could not be permanent.

Rogers also pointed out the low wage rate in China, amounting only to a few cents. He said the CNMI could improve its competitiveness if it reduces the minimum wage and local taxes. He also expressed support to the proposed reduction of valueadded requirement on garment imports by the United States.

He said the years 2005 to 2008 would become a critical

timeframe to the garment industry on Saipan and in the world. "If you don't do that [improve competitiveness], pick a date when Saipan manufacturing is declared over."

SUNSHINE AUTO

HERMANS CMYK

LOTTERY

MVA still waiting for the rest of its 2004 budget

By AGNES E. DONATO

The Department of Finance is still behind by \$1.7 million in its budget allotment for the Marianas Visitors Authority for fiscal year 2004, putting on the balance MVA's upcoming payments to its overseas marketing offices.

MVA chair David Sablan said the entire amount is all committed for and includes funds that the tourism agency needs to pay Ruder Finn Asia, which is the marketing firm selected to represent MVA in China. MVA has entered into a two-year contract with Ruder Finn Asia at a cost of \$490,000 per year.

Sablan said that, while MVA is currently up-to-date

receive the budget balance by next month.

"We need to pay the commitment that we have coming up, we must have that money by December. I have been told that the total amount owed MVA on the various earmarked accounts will come to us in December of this year," he said in an interview.

MVA has a total budget appropriation of \$7 million for FY2004. This amount include the \$858,000 that MVA had to pass on to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources for the care of Saipan tourist sites, as well as the mandatory 1 percent for the Office of the Public Auditor and the

in its payments to vendors, it 2 percent budget reserve to is imperative for the agency to help retire the government's accumulated deficit.

> This means that MVA has received only about \$4 million of its FY2004 budget.

During the same interview, Sablan reiterated his call for the Legislature to reconsider its plan to cut MVA's FY2005 budget to \$4 million.

Sablan recalled that the tourism agency initially requested a \$14-million budget so it could expand to the vast China market. Nevertheless, he said MVA is willing to tighten its belt and settle for \$7 million.

"We can probably operate with \$7 million, although it's going to be very tight because of the additional points of origin that we have to cover:

China, Hong Kong, Taipei, Manila," he said.

He added, however, that it would be impossible to conduct any marketing with a \$4-million budget. He said advertising in Japan alone costs \$2 million, while marketing in Korea needs about \$750,000.

"How about our operating expenses? A \$4-million budget will give us no choice but to cut down on advertising to take care of payroll," Sablan said.

Last July, the MVA board of directors approved a budget based on the assumption that the CNMI government would continue operating under a continuing resolution.

Of the \$5.957 million identified as available for the agency, MVA allocated \$3.72 million for advertising.

Some \$625,000 of the \$3.72 million will be used for advertising within the islands while the rest will go to promotions in the international markets.

The biggest advertising budget—at \$1.78 million—was given to Japan, the primary tourism market of the Northern Mariana Islands. The emerging China/ Taiwan market came next with \$590,731, followed by Korea with \$485,000. The balance will be shared by the United States, Guam, and other markets.

MVA budgeted \$1.53 million for personnel expenses. The remaining \$709,491 will go to other operational expenses.

In an earlier interview, MVA managing director Vicky I. Benavente said the agency plans to

keep its personnel costs down by hiring no replacements for those who have resigned or otherwise left MVA, and by keeping travel expenses to a minimum.

Benavente pointed out that only \$63,000 has been appropriated for employees' travel expenses in FY2005, despite the huge number of international trade shows and marketing events that MVA attends annually.

She said MVA will make do with the limited budget by sending a maximum of two board members and two staff members to off-island trips. "We will also monitor all expenditures of our off-island offices very carefully. We will make sure that we get the maximum amount of return for our investments," she said.

VERIZON CMYK

TOWNHOUSE +YELLOW

Fitial, Tim Villagomez team up for '05 gubernatorial race

By LIBERTY DONES REPORTER

Taking a member of the Villagomez clan as his running mate, House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial formally declared yesterday his intention to run again for governor in next year's elections under the Covenant Party.

Fitial and Vice Speaker Timothy Villagomez announced their political plan in a family picnic yesterday at Pao Pao Beach in Marpi.

The gathering coincided with

the Citizenship Day holiday.

This is a family picnic and I decided to declare my intent to run again for governor. I will be asking my families for their support. I am hoping that they will give me their support," said Fitial in an interview.

Fitial, who lost to the Babauta-Benavente team in 2001, said he is confident that he would make it this time "because I already learned from the first time I lost."

"I know why I lost so I think I pretty much know how to run to win," he said.

Fitial said one of his weak-

nesses then was his failure to depend on the government for do a lot of personal visits to

"So I plan to visit every house and knock on every door," he said. "My other weakness was I never promised anybody work or pay increase," he added.

He said next year's election would boil down to the economy.

"The main issue is economy. People are hurting. Families are hurting because of lack of income. Lack of income contributes to social problems: theft, robberies. This [economy] is what I want to concentrate onhow to bring in new money into the Commonwealth and how to make the businesses, the existing businesses feel they are important and know that they can

assistance," said the speaker.

For his part, Villagomez who came with his immediate family members, including former Public Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez, said he is "more than happy" to be Fitial's running mate.

"I'm always been an advocate of positive change and I'm moving forward. I have a track record of being a doer. That's what I believe in the speaker. I believe in his policy. I believe that he can lead the Commonwealth," he said.

He said Fitial is "a focused person, a pro-business person." Villagomez said he has yet to

meet with his entire family.

"I will be meeting with fam-

ily members. Unfortunately, because of a death in the family, I'm not able to bring them here. That's something, culturally, that I have to respect. So I have scheduled a meeting with my family to inform them of what's happening in regards to the 2005 elections," he said.

His 11-year old daughter, Rita Villagomez, said she fully supports the candidacy of her father.

"I'd like him to run. I want to be a politician too when I grow up," she said.

Villagomez, a former executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., won a congressional seat the first time he ran last year under the Covenant Party.

He comes from the influential Villagomez family, which has traditionally been associated with the Republican Party.

The Fitial-Villagomez team is seen as the major contender in next year's gubernational race.

Last September, Gov. Juan N. Babauta announced his plan to seek re-election with Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente in the 2005 polls.

The BB team is being challenged in the Republican Party by congressman Heinz S. Hofschneider, who plans to run with Rep. David Apatang.

The Democratic Party would either endorse former Gov. Froilan Tenorio or Sen. Luis Crisostimo for the island's highest elective post.



House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, left, teams up with House Vice Speaker Timothy Villagomez as standard bearer for the Covenant Party in the 2005 local elections.

HARDT EYE

HERMANS CMYK

CAMPUS BULLETIN

CNMI receives \$560K coral reef grant

REMEMBERING MOM

Gov. Juan N. Babauta pays his respects to his departed mother, Carmen Babauta, during All Saint's Day, Nov. 1.



LIBERTY DONES

By LIBERTY DONES REPORTER

The Department of the Interior and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have approved the CNMI's \$560,000 grant application for coral reef protection in the CNMI.

DOI Office of Insular Affairs director Nikola I. Pula, in a recent letter to Gov. Juan N. Babauta, said the funds will be used to carry out the projects identified by the local Coral Reef Advisory Group as high priority.

These include funding for a coral reef coordinator, an assistant attorney general dedicated to coral reef protection, marine enforcement operations, surveys of the Saipan lagoon, and an economic reef evaluation.

Pula lauded the CNMI for developing "a comprehensive, detailed,

and well-articulated set of proposals" to improve the management and protection of the CNMI's coral reef ecosystems.

Babauta said the funds will be used in 2004-2005 to address critical threats to CNMI coral reefs such as over-fishing, destructive fishing, and the harvest and collection of marine ornamentals; increasing development pressure, unmanaged land use and population growth; tourism and recreational overuse, and vessel groundings and anchoring; marine pollution, sedimentation, runoff, non-point source pollution, and marine debris; and lack of general public awareness.

The Coral Reef Initiative grant is given to the Governor's Office but the funds are shared with four other agencies involved in coral reef protection.

NMBA bartenders challenge gets support

By SHAN SEMAN REPORTER

With its highly anticipated Grand Marnier Challenge approaching, the Northern Marianas Bartenders Association managed to obtain support from the Marianas Visitors Authority, which recently contributed \$200 to the event.

In a letter to NMBA president Lito Espino, MVA acting managing director Martin F. Duenas commended the NMBA for its effort in hosting the event.

"We support the idea that competitions like this enhance the skills in our bartenders, which will result in a higher quality of service for our visitors and local community," he said. "The [MVA] would like to thank you for your continuous efforts to promote a higher quality of service to our visitors, as we continue to promote the Northern Mariana Islands as the premier destination of choice in the Pacific."

The Bartender Cocktail Competition-Grand Marnier Challenge is scheduled to unfold on Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2004 at the Madonna Disco of the Saipan Grand Hotel, with an entrance fee of \$10 per participant.

"The competition is geared toward building self-confidence, pride and professionalism among bartenders and to develop a more competitive attraction to tourists here in CNMI," Espino said.

The competition, slated to begin at 8:30pm, includes over \$400 in total cash prizes and other items.

Espino said each company will be limited to two representatives but participants will not be allowed to wear any uniform or logos that would disclose the company being represented. Instead, participants must be dressed in black pants and an island attire shirt.

Whoever emerges as champion will receive \$150 plus a round trip ticket from Saipan to Manila and a cell phone, while first and sec-

ond runners up will receive \$100 and \$50. Best in Show earns \$100 plus a cell phone.

The top three winners will also receive a trophy and medal, while the Best in Show category winner will also be awarded a trophy.

All participants would receive certificates.

Aside from the NMBA, other sponsors include Grand Marnier, TITAN Imports, Pacific Trading Co., Western Sales Trading Co., Verizon, Triple B. Forwarders, Papago Island Charcoal, Tambayan Bar and Restaurant, and Elite Printing.

Already confirming participation are bartenders from Aqua Resort Club, Coffee Care and Restaurant, Dai-ichi Hotel Saipan Beach, Abyss Bar and Restaurant, Hafa Adai Hotel, Tambayan Bar and Restaurant, Saipan Grand Hotel, World Resort, and Pacific Islands Club.

For more information, contact Espino at 286-9982 or email at nmba_Saipan@yahoo.com.

YCO TRUE VALUE

FHB's parent firm acquires California, Midwest banks

The parent company of First Hawaiian Bank recently announced that it has completed two acquisitions that will make it the seventh-largest bank holding company in the western United States.

French-owned BancWest Corp. completed the acquisition of Community First Bankshares, Inc., parent company of Community First National Bank and Community First Insurance Inc., and USDB Bancorp, parent of Union Safe Deposit Bank.

Bancwest said the acquisitions will bring Bank of the West branches to 10 more states and increase its presence in California's Central Valley.

Branches of Community First National Bank and Union Safe Deposit will be integrated into Bank of the West in December and January, BancWest said in a news release.

The acquisitions will establish Bank of the West branches

in Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

With the acquisitions, Honolulu-based BancWest, a subsidiary of French banking giant BNP Paribas, one of Europe's largest banks, will have about \$49 billion in assets and more than 530 branches in 17 states, Guam and Saipan.

"These acquisitions make BancWest one of the premier financial services franchises in the Western United States," said Walter A. Dods Jr., chairman and chief executive officer of BancWest. "These are two complementary banks that fit in well with BancWest both strategically and financially."

Honolulu-based BancWest announced in March it would pay \$32.25 a share to acquire the Fargo, N.D.-based parent company of Community First National Bank, which operates

156 branches in 12 states from California to Minnesota.

The bank announced in April that it would acquire Stockton, Calif.-based USDB Bancorp for \$245 million in cash in a deal to expand BancWest's presence in California, where USDB has 19 Union Safe Deposit branches in San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties.

"Although the signs on the door will change, Community First and Union Safe Deposit customers will receive the same personal service that they're used to, because that's been a Bank of the West tradition for 130 years," said Don J. McGrath, president of BancWest

Bank of the West has \$31.7 billion in assets with 297 branches in California, Oregon, New Mexico, Nevada, Washington and Idaho. BancWest's other principal subsidiary, First Hawaiian Bank, has 56 branches in Hawaii, three in Guam and two in Saipan.

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Opinion



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John Pangelinan PUBLISHER Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

The price gouging stupor



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Letters to the Editor

Azmar's worst nightmare



FOUR

From Page 1

WASHINGTON (AP)—His second term secured, President Bush is reaching out and asking the 55 million people who voted to oust him from office to get behind the ambitious agenda he's laid out for the next four years.

The work of making good on a raft of tough-to-keep campaign promises begins Thursday, when Bush sits down with his Cabinet for their first such meeting since Aug. 2.

In a quietly jubilant victory speech Wednesday that came a full 21 hours after the polls closed, Bush outlined the goals he plans to start work on immediately and pursue in the next four years, a period he termed "a season of hope."

He pledged to keep up the fight against terrorism, press for stable democracies in Iraq and Afghanistan, simplify the tax code, allow younger workers to invest some of their Social Security withholdings in the stock market, continue to raise accountability standards in public schools and "uphold our deepest values and family and faith."

Other items include reforms to the nation's intelligence community, halving the record \$413 billion deficit, expanding health care coverage, a constitutional ban on gay marriage and moving "this goodhearted nation toward a culture of life."

"Reaching these goals will require the broad support of Americans," Bush said, as he asked Sen. John Kerry's disappointed supporters to back him although many of his proposals are anathema the opponents of his re-election.

"I will work to earn it. I will do all I can do to deserve your trust," he said. "When we come together and work together, there is no limit to the greatness of America."

Bush also has pledged a full-court press with Congress, where a continued Republican lock on both houses makes getting his wishes granted easier, but not guaranteed for a lame-duck president.

Still, Bush is sure to spend the remaining days of his first term and much of his second dealing primarily with the same issues that have dominated the last three years—the anti-terror battle, the war in Iraq and the economy. But first, some time for rest after a grueling, bitter campaign. After the Cabinet meeting, Bush was headed to the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland for a long weekend.

Bush stands to reshape the federal judiciary, starting with an aging Supreme Court that voted 5-4 to award him Florida four years ago. In all branches of government, the GOP now holds a solid, if not

permanent, ruling majority.

Bush's vote totals were the biggest ever and his slice of the vote, 51 percent, made him the first president to claim a majority since 1988 when his father won 53 percent against Democrat Michael Dukakis.

Like Dukakis, Kerry is a Massachusetts politician who was labeled a liberal by a Bush. This president also called Kerry a flip-flopping opportunist who would fight feebly against terror.

None of that rancor was evident Wednesday, when Kerry called Bush to concede the race. He told Bush the country needed to be united, and Bush agreed. But the numbers suggest the country is deeply split.

Bush's victory ensures Republican dominance of virtually every quarter of the U.S. political system for years to come - the White House, Congress and the federal judiciary. Democrats pored over election results and sadly determined that the GOP base was bigger, more rural, suburban and Hispanic than they had ever imagined.

They looked within their own party, and found plenty of Democrats to blame - Kerry, his running mate John Edwards, their layers of consultants and legions of former Bill Clinton aides. The jockeying began in earnest for the 2008 race, with Edwards signaling his ambitions by pressing Kerry to wage a legal fight for Ohio. Democrats love to fight the GOP, particularly those Democrats who vote in primaries and caucuses.

"You can be disappointed, but you cannot walk away," Edwards told supporters at Kerry's concession. "This fight has just begun."

Supporters of Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, herself a potential candidate in 2008, accused Edwards of posturing.

Kerry himself showed no signs of exiting the political arena. "I'll never stop fighting for you," he told backers.

Still, it was a grim day for Democrats.

Party strategists had longed hoped to supplant their political losses in the Midwest and South with growth in the Hispanic-rich Western states, but those plans were put in doubt Tuesday night. Exit polls suggested that Bush had increased his minority share of the Hispanic vote since 2000.

One-third of Hispanics said they were born-again Christians and nearly 20 percent listed moral values as their top issue, suggesting they have more in common with Republicans than Democrats.

The election also vindicated Bush's unorthodox strategy of governing from the right and then targeting his voters with a volunteer-driven organization run through his campaign headquarters. Kerry played to the center and relied on a loosely knit conglomerate of liberal groups who paid get-out-thevote workers.

Americans Coming Together, the Media Fund and other liberal special interest groups spent more than \$200 million to defeat Bush. Kerry spent

tens of millions more, and what did he get? Just one state won by Bush in 2000, New Hampshire, switched to the Democratic column this year.

Young voters didn't increase their turnout as Democrats had hoped. Neither did blacks or union members, two keys to the party's base.

Bush, meanwhile, saw a surge in rural and evangelical voters, according to strategists on both sides. The rural vote, once reliably Democratic, swelled in size and supported Bush over Kerry.

In Ohio, exit polls suggested the rural vote increased from 15 percent of the electorate in 2000 to 25 percent on Tuesday. Rural voters backed Bush over Kerry 60 percent to 40.

In Ohio and Florida, the two most important states Election Night, Democrats said they met their turnout targets, only to see Bush's forces trounce them. They said state ballot measures to ban gay marriage may have driven GOP voters to the polls.

The most stinging defeat was in Ohio, which may no longer be considered a swing state. With 232,000 jobs lost under Bush and state voters uneasy about Iraq, it was as ripe as it will ever be for Democrats, strategists said.

Ohio's 20 electoral votes gave Bush 279 in the Associated Press count, nine more than the 270 needed for victory. Kerry had 252 electoral votes, with Iowa's seven unsettled.

Bush beat Kerry by more than 3 million votes.

KERRY

From Page 1

But Kerry also said that "there won't be enough outstanding votes for us to win Ohio, and therefore we cannot win this election."

"In this journey, you have given me the honor and the gift of learning from you," the senator said.

"I'm going to fight on for the people and the principles that I've stood for," said Kerry, who returns to the Senate to complete his term. Friends and admirers who joined him, running mate John Edwards and their families applauded lovingly during his 15-minute speech at this city's historic Faneuil Hall.

Preceding Kerry, Edwards said,

"well, it was a long night and a long morning. ... We will continue to fight for every vote. We know every vote matters in our America and we will honor each and every one of you. We didn't start fighting for you when this campaign began and we won't stop fighting for you when this campaign ends."

With their families aligned in the front row, Kerry and Edwards appeared before a mammoth painting by George P. A. Healy. Measuring almost 27 feet in width, it depicts a famous 19th century exchange between Daniel Webster and South Carolina Senator Robert Hayne about the federal Constitution's jurisdiction over the states.

Inscribed on the frame are Webster's

famous words: "Liberty and Union, Now and Forever."

They had gathered earlier at Kerry's Beacon Hill home. His two-year campaign for the White House ended abruptly with the loss of the make-orbreak state of Ohio in a close election.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, who campaigned heavily for Kerry over the past year, entered Kerry's house Wednesday morning with his wife, Victoria. Also spotted going inside were David Thorne, Kerry's longtime friend and former brother-in-law, stepson Andre Heinz, and brother Cameron Kerry.

Kerry called Bush shortly before 11 a.m. to concede defeat after his campaign determined Ohio was out of reach. "Congratulations, Mr. President," Kerry said.

Hours earlier, Kerry huddled inside his home with advisers while running mate John Edwards addressed the nation from Copley Square. Both Democrats had campaigned until the last minute, mindful of the close finish four years ago.

"We've waited four years for this victory, we can wait one more night," Edwards, standing outside on a cold, drizzly night, told supporters still awake in the wee hours of the morning.

Advisers later said the campaign just wanted one last look at the uncounted ballots in Ohio, where Bush held a 136,000-vote advantage. The state's 20 electoral votes sealed victory for Bush.

In 2000, Bush sweated out a 36-day recount before a Supreme Court ruling awarded him Florida and the White House.

Kerry spent the campaign's final weeks going after Bush with a steady stream of criticism over his decision to wage war in Iraq and his push for costly tax cuts the Democrat said were irresponsible.

The four-term Massachusetts senator worked to tap into voters' pessimistic frame of mind, evident in exit polls, which showed them worried about new terrorist attacks, job losses and the war in Iraq.

The Democrat seized on three televised debates as his best opportunity to make these arguments to his largest audience, and his support ticked up after he delivered three solid performances.

CNMI

From Page 1

the CNMI got great support from the Bush administration, said the CNMI is "very delighted" with the electoral result.

"We have never come close to the kind of assistance that we've been getting from the administration under Bush. It's one thing I was worried about—what would happen if it's not David Cohen [of the Department of the Interior]?" he said. Cohen, assistant deputy secretary for insular affairs, said in his visit last week that he would resign if Bush loses the election.

Further, Benavente said that 'a strong Republican U.S. Congress can mean that "it will help us in next year's election." The CNMI Republican Party was recognized by the national GOP this year.

"It's the relationship. Of course, it's not the case all the time but Republican administrations tend to be more supportive of a local Republican government. It may not always be the case but we are in the best position to expect that," he said.

He said Bush won partly because people acknowledged his "consistent leadership."

"Although people may not agree on a lot of issues but people know the positions he is taking," he said.

Rep. Clyde Norita, for his part, said that Bush's re-election means "another four good years for the Commonwealth."

"It's great thing. I'm happy... I think that Bush has been very helpful to the Commonwealth. It's good thing for the Commonwealth if he gets another four years," he said.

Traditionally, Norita said, the CNMI receives more federal assistance when the U.S. administration is Republican.

Vice Speaker Timothy Villagomez said he is not surprised that Bush won the election. "He has the backing of the people. It's a close race but you see that he is ahead both in the electoral and popular votes."

House leadership spokesman Charles Reyes Jr. said Bush's victory would mean that the "CNMI is safe from federal takeover attempts on its immigration and minimum wage.

"It's a very positive development for the CNMI... We'd be safe because the Republican ideologies and philosophy emphasize state rights, local government, free market economics. All these party principles will be brought to bear. It's death of federal intervention. I think it's receding even more because of the victory in the states," he said.

On the issue of federal takeover, Benavente said it is also about the performance of the local government. "Our administration has been very effective in removing any attempt by the federal government on the takeover issue. While it does protect us there, we've done a lot ourselves already," he said.

The business sector was also jubilant over the Bush-Cheney victory.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan said: "I believe the victory is very good for the country and the islands. I congratulate the president, vice president, and the entire Republican Party."

Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands president Lynn Knight agreed, saying, "I'm very happy with the outcome. Under this administration, it has put in place very good people at the Department of the Interior who have been really supportive of the CNMI. We can see a big difference between the Bush administration and Clinton administration, which have been very good for the CNMI all around."

Mixed reactions

Reaction from the streets were, however, more mixed, with several individuals indicating their satisfaction with the result, while others expressing their disappointment.

"I was very shocked because I really thought Kerry was going to pull this one out," said 19-year-old student Thomas W. Sablan. "Before the election, many news channels kept showing that it's going to be a really close race. I am just happy that Bush won because I think he has done a good job and would continue to do a good job the next four years."

For his part, vacationer Brandon Harrison of Washington, who is currently on island visiting his brother, said the result was "no reason for him to jump for joy."

"I was quite upset because I really believed Kerry made good points on how Bush should've taken a little more time and get more support from allies before going to war," he said. "There are many people who are sacrificing because of this war, and maybe if Bush went into war with more support, the U.S. won't have to shoulder as much troops and money. I have

family who are fighting at war, so I am not too happy with this. He led us into war the wrong way, what's to stop him from doing it again."

Further, Harrison expressed his concern over U.S. relations with other countries

"I'm just wondering how the relations with the U.S. and other countries is going to end up. I know that a lot of countries and their people aren't too happy about the situation. The war in Iraq wouldn't have ended even if Kerry took the presidency, but he probably would do a better job in making better decisions before putting thousands of lives at stake."

Roger Asuncion, for his part, was in favor of the election result, citing Bush's ability to "be firm" as "an element of his personality that is needed to run the country."

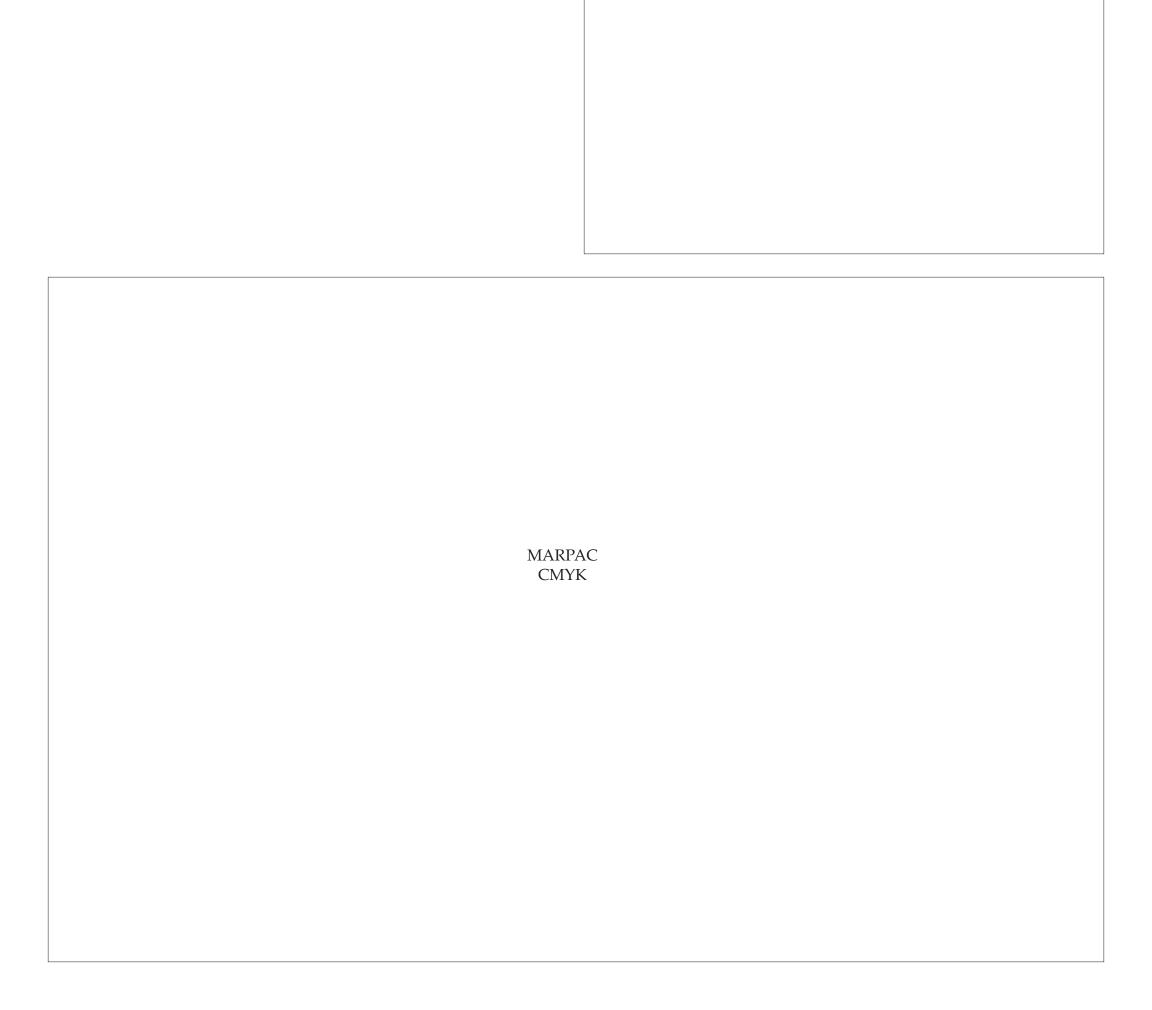
"He was firm with his decision and remains firm until now," he said. "That's something that I like. He took the country to war with or without the approval of many countries because he did not want another 9/11. What are we going to do, spend so much time just talking and talking about what needs to be done. Well, while we're going to be talking, terrorists are moving to strike again."

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BABY NEWS



NAGOYA

CAMPUS BULLETIN	ISABELLAS
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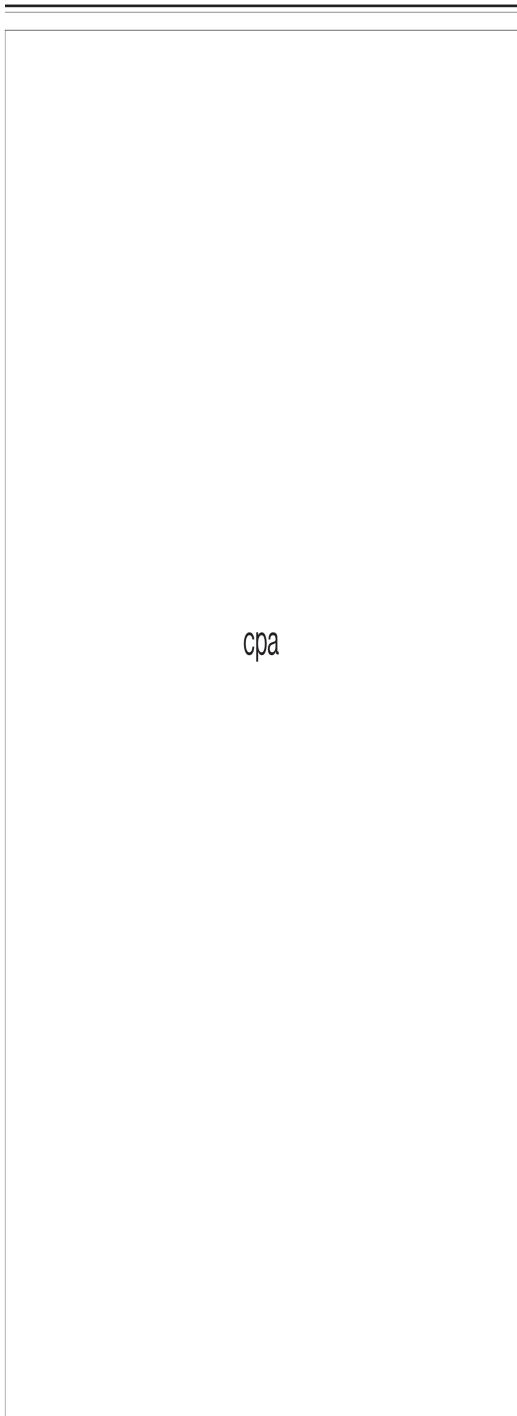
RED CROSS CMYK SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2004 **21**

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mazda clearance cmyk

aqua resort club cmyk





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VERIZON CMYK



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Europe seeks new beginning with Bush

PARIS (AP)—European allies alienated by President Bush's first four years in power offered Wednesday to let bygones be bygones, saying they want to work with the new administration and seeking, right from Day 1, to get the new White House to listen more to overseas opinion.

French President Jacques Chirac, in a congratulatory letter, said he hoped Bush's second term "will be the occasion for strengthening the French-American friendship.'

"We will be unable to find satisfying responses to the numerous challenges that confront us today without a close trans-Atlantic partnership," wrote Chirac. He addressed the letter to "Dear George."

Another critic of the Iraq war, Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero said his government wants "a relationship of efficient, constructive cooperation with the U.S. government and with President Bush, respecting the ideas of each side."

Zapatero, who angered Washington by withdrawing Spanish troops from Iraq, stayed up most of the night to watch as Republican red crept across the U.S. electoral map.

Prime Minister Tony Blair renewed his pledge to work with President Bush on the war on terrorism and to revitalize the Middle East peace process Wednesday, expressing hope that the U.S. leader's election victory would help mend a divided world.

Blair also called on Europe and the United States, whose relationship was strained over the Iraq war, to "build anew their alliance" in the wake of the electoral victory.

"President Bush's re-election comes at a critical time. A world that is fractured, divided and uncertain must be brought together to fight this global terrorism in

Bin Laden accuses Bush of Iraq quagmire

CAIRO, **Egypt** (AP)—Ter- sion to his oil business past. ror mastermind Osama bin Laden claimed in new video footage broadcast Wednesday that President Bush ignored warnings against invading Iraq because he was dazzled by the country's "black gold" and ended up leading the United States into a quagmire.

The full video, portions of which were broadcast Friday, was posted on a Web site used by Islamic groups Wednesday. The tape show the author of the Sept. 11 attacks accusing Bush of acting out of what he calls "private" interests-and allu-

all its forms, and to recognize it will not be defeated by military might alone," said Blair, at his Downing Street office.

He stressed the importance of bringing democracy to Iraq, as

Bush ignored the warnings because "the darkness of the black gold blurred his vision and insight, and he gave priority to private interests over the public interests of America," bin Laden says in the portions of the tape that the Arab network Al-Jazeera did not broadcast Friday.

"The war went ahead. The death toll rose. The American economy bled, and Bush became embroiled in the swamps of Iraq that threaten his future," bin Laden said.

Accusing America of op-

in Afghanistan, and to fighting

poverty and injustice in Africa

Election interest in Europe

was intense, as was the disap-

pointment many felt over Bush's

and elsewhere in the world.

Analysts say bin Laden issued the tape in a bid to influence the U.S. presidential elections, which took place four days after Al-Jazeera broadcast it.

pressing and killing Arabs,

bin Laden asks: "Is defend-

ing oneself and punishing

the aggressor objectionable

as terrorism? If it is, then it is

Al-Jazeera, which is based

in Qatar, published a transcript of the full tape on its Web site

on Monday. The transcript

matches the video posted on

unavoidable for us."

the Islamic Web site.

victory. Some saw it as proof that Europe and the United States are further apart than ever.

"There is a major and lasting lack of understanding between the American people and the rest of the world, in both directions," said Hubert Vedrine, a former French foreign minister. "Almost all nations, with perhaps three or four exceptions, wanted change."

Others worried that Bush, strengthened by a bigger win than in 2000 and backed by a Republican Congress, would turn a deaf ear to world concerns.

"Europe will continue to criticize Bush the same way as earlier," said Swedish Prime Minister Goeran Persson. "But I do not believe that he will be more willing to listen."

Russian lawmakers and analysts cautioned that second-term U.S. presidents often flex more muscle to secure a place in history and warned that President Vladimir Putin could face more criticism from the White House over his efforts to consolidate power and tinker with Russia's electoral system, which critics have called a retreat from democracy.

Arafat takes turn for worse, aides say

PARIS (AP)—The condition of Yasser Arafat, in a French hospital for treatment of an unidentified ailment, has deteriorated significantly over the past day, Palestinian officials said early Thursday.

officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the 75-year-old Arafat had taken a turn for worse, adding that doctors still don't know the cause.

Mohammed Dah-

lan, a former Palestinian security chief in Paris with a group of Arafat aides, denied that Arafat's condition has worsened. "The president's condition is stable," he told reporters.

A Palestinian official in the Middle East confirmed an Israeli TV report that Arafat was in very serious condition.

Earlier Wednesday, Arafat felt well enough to ask about the president's vision" in the the hospital for five weeks.

the U.S. presidential election, said Leila Shahid, the Palestinian envoy to France.

He congratulated President Bush and expressed hope that a second term will spark new

> life to the Middle East peace process, said aide Mohammed Rashid.

> Arafat expressed new determination to revive the so-called "road map"—the stalled peace plan between Palestinians and

Israelis that Bush supports-and hopes the U.S. administration will be "more engaged" in the process, Rashid said.

Arafat "declares the readiness of the Palestinian leadership to cooperate and work with (Bush) to resume political efforts to bring about peace and the establishment of a Palestinian state based on road map, Rashid said, who is Arafat's financial adviser.

The United States has refused to deal with Arafat, calling him a disappointment and a hindrance to peacemaking with Israel.

The Israeli officials offered a cautious assessment earlier in the day of his condition.

"We are tracking his condition very carefully, our goal is to prepare for the day after, if and when he dies," Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom told Israel Radio. "There is no doubt his condition is very serious."

The Israeli military intelligence latest judgment was that doctors are considering that Arafat has either a viral stomach disorder that can be treated or some form of stomach cancer.

Quoting unnamed international sources, Israel radio also reported that Arafat was not always lucid in conversations and was expected to remain in



ASH CLOUD

A plane flies near clouds of dust above the volcano on Grimsvotn mountain in eastern Iceland Tuesday Nov. 2, 2004. The volcano erupted in a remote area of Iceland on Monday, setting off tremors across the area and prompting officials to warn pilots to avoid flying through gasses being emitted by the blast.

Queen Elizabeth II opens climate forum

POTSDAM, Germany (AP)—Britain's Queen Elizabeth II opened a conference on climate change during a state visit Wednesday and praised the progress made by Germany's formerly communist east.

The queen, whose trip to Germany has highlighted the countries' post-World War II reconciliation, had lunch at the Cecilienhof manor in Potsdam, just outside Berlin, where American, Russian and British leaders met for two weeks in 1945 to discuss the shape of postwar Europe.

She spoke of the transformation of Germany's eastern states after the country reunified 14 years ago.

Canada: US immigrants

TORONTO (AP)—Americans attempting to es-Ministry said Wednesday.

shifted to the left of the United States, with relatively higher taxes supporting programs such as

public health care. That and the promise of legalized gay marriage and lenient marijuana laws might be a draw to some Democrats despondent over Bush victory and the promise of continued conservatism from his administration.

The U.S. consulate in Toronto estimates there already may be a million Americans living in Canada—most don't register—about a quarter of them in Ontario.

Eight held in Dutch filmmaker's slaying

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP)—Police arrested eight more suspected Islamic radicals Wednesday in the slaying of a Dutch filmmaker who criticized Muslim customs. Lawmakers questioned why authorities hadn't kept tabs on the alleged killer, who had a record of violent crime and contacts with a group under surveillance.

The arrests were made in the 24 hours since Theo van Gogh was slain while cycling down an Amsterdam street Tuesday-believed to be the first Islamic terrorist attack in the Netherlands.

Six of the detainees are of Moroccan ancestry, one is Algerian and the last has dual Spanish-Moroccan nationality, prosecution spokeswoman Dop Kruimel said. The eight are in addition to the suspect arrested minutes after the slaying, a 26-year-old Amsterdam resident of Moroccan origin.

UN accuses Sudan of moving refugees

UNITED NATIONS (AP)— There are strong indications of war crimes "on a large and systematic scale" in Darfur and violence is worsening in the western Sudanese region where 2 million people have now been affected by the conflict, the top U.N. envoy to Sudan said Wednesday.

Jan Pronk, in a report to the U.N. Security Council, accused Sudan's government of failing to "end impunity" and bring the perpetrators of widespread killings, rapes, looting and village burnings to justice.

"There are strong indications that war crimes and crimes against humanity have occurred in Darfur on a large and systematic scale," Pronk said.

The violence in Darfur began in February 2003 when two black African rebel groups

took up arms over alleged unjust treatment by the Sudanese government and ethnic Arab countrymen. Pro-government militias called Janjaweed reacted by unleashing attacks on villages.

The Bush administration says the Janjaweed are largely responsible for an ethnic cleansing campaign. The United States and the United Nations are urging the government to curb the militias, but the government denies backing the Janjaweed and blames the rebels. The conflict has killed at least 70,000 people.

On Wednesday, the U.S. State Department accused the Sudanese government of violating U.N. principles and resolutions by forcibly removing thousands of displaced people in Darfur from a camp where they had taken refuge, and urged they be returned. Pronk made a similar appeal Tuesday. An African Union official

said Wednesday that Sudanese

security forces had bulldozed the camp after forcing thousands of

refugees to another camp. But a Sudanese minister denied that the refugees in El Geer camp near Nyala, the capital of South Darfur state, had been relocated against their will, saying they were taken to another

camp so they could get better

services. Pronk, however, said the camp to which they were

moved less desirable. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher also appealed for the withdrawal of Sudanese forces surrounding some camps for Darfur refugees and urged the government to let humanitarian

workers return to the region.

must seek visas

cape four more years of President Bush by fleeing to Canada will have to wait in line, just like immigrants from any other country, the Immigration

Over the years, Canada's social climate has

DCCA

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Life & Style

Giving manhood a feminine touch

THE HARTFORD COURANT

In a poll in its annual "Women We Love" issue, Esquire magazine named Leonardo DiCaprio Hollywood's most "womanish" man. Lovely Leo easily trounced juicy Justin Timberlake and beauteous Brad Pitt for the title of celebritydom's most womanly man.

Although Esquire surely added the category just for fun, how many of us haven't thought the exact same thing about the "Titanic" superstar? It's not like DiCaprio is out there

wearing lipstick and teetering on Manolos, but he's certainly femme enough to turn men's heads (while, oddly enough, being a sex symbol to an adoring female public).

What's going on here? Have we "Queer-Eyed" ourselves to the point that gender distinctions don't matter? Have American men metrosexualized themselves to the stage so that little Lord Fauntleroys are the new "it" boys? Have we reached the time when a man in a dress (and full-on makeup) isn't shocking or the least bit mirthful?

Ryan Katz hopes not. The

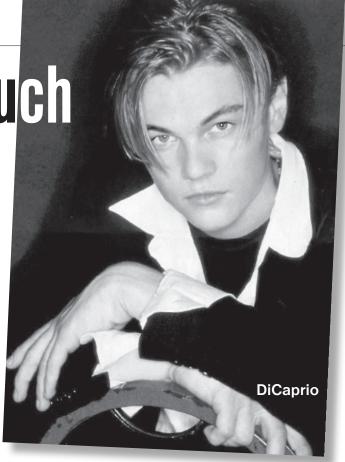
bald and brawny Los Angeles resident hopes television viewers get a kick out of him in a wig, makeup, dress and high heels. He's one of the male contestants in the new TBS reality series, "He's a Lady," where all-American straight guys compete to see who makes the most convincing woman.

"What did it feel like? It was terrifying, tumultuous; it took my testosterone away. It was something I've never experienced," says the sometimes professional wrestler and DVD producer who transformed into "Sunshine" for the reality

show. "Here and there, there was a moment or so where I said, 'Hey, I look pretty good.' But I definitely didn't feel hot, sexy or attractive."

Katz, like the other straightup dudes on "He's a Lady," isn't the cross-dressing type. But he should never underestimate the broad appeal America has for guys in skirts, for men who veer purposefully into womanly realms.

Shtick like Uncle Miltie, "Some Like it Hot," "Tootsie" and "Mrs. Doubtfire" has always been good for wholesome laughs. But what does one make



of this month's W magazine where couture fashions are put on male models instead of female? Or the MAC cosmetics ads showing a dandy gent sporting over-the-top maquillage? Or the dazzling countenance of a dolled up Billy Crudup in the period film "Stage Beauty" where the handsome actor plays the most beautiful actress in England?

The classic reversing of sex roles has had the wind taken out of its sails. Metrosexuality, combined with a softening attitude toward homosexuality, bisexuality and even transgender people, has eroded the traditional taboo and humorous aspects of seeing men in women's clothing, says Bob Thompson, a professor of popular culture at Syracuse University.

"This is a crucial transitional phase. What always made men in women's clothing hilarious was the discomfort under the surface, that it was the ultimate joke; that it was so tabooed is what made it funny," he said. "Clearly, it isn't so taboo now."

There was a time when buying a man's magazine meant seeing a naked woman. Today, men's magazines, he says, are all about buying the right slim-fitting blazer and finding the perfect moisturizer. Attitudes about what makes straight guys tick, even as it pertains to the more closeted aspects of their sexuality, are now routinely discussed.

"Down the line the humorous value of seeing a man in have drawers filled with beauty women's clothing isn't going to be funny anymore," Thompson said. "What it reflects is much more of a dissolving of some of the old, and often oppressive, gender distinctions."

Peter Hyman went down that road and lived to tell. In "The Reluctant Metrosexual: Dispatches From an Almost Hip Life," the writer explored a straight guy's dip into the dangerously gay territory of day spas, bikini waxes and fancyboy Italian shirts.

"When all this (metrosexualization) started, it had already gone too far. It's the mainstreaming of certain things that have been relegated to homosexual activity. An increase in male vanity? Any quick glance of history will tell you that men have been vain as long as they've been men," says Hyman, a former Vanity Fair staffer who has written for The New York Times and The New York Observer.

Still, Hyman readily concedes that the blurring of the gender lines has produced a somewhat conflicted view of traditional American manhood.

"It feels more acceptable for a guy to watch pro football on a Sunday afternoon but earlier that morning went shopping for a mid-century design Danish chair," he said. "Men's interests have expanded, and that's positive. We're jocks and brutes, but now we're moisturized, feminized, emasculated? I don't think it's that. It's not either/or."

For Katz, the joys of being a girl weren't many. But it did give him a newfound appreciation for being a man.

"I took away from this the fact that it's very difficult to be a woman. I'm blessed to be born a man. There's not so much stuff to go through. As a guy I can roll out of bed and go to the grocery store. If a woman did that, she'd be judged," he says.

Maybe this trend toward girly men is a good thing. Or not.

"What's happening is that we're indoctrinating men into some of the bad things women are forced to do. Men didn't products. Now instead of liberating women, we're simply bringing men into that same situation," Thompson says.

"After 'Queer Eye for the Straight Guy,' guys have to think a lot more about what they look like and smell like. The good news is that they put the toilet seat down more often. The bad news is that they have to wear product."

Hyman isn't sure where all this leaves the battle over the equality of the sexes, the debate over sexual orientation.

Neither are we. But doesn't DiCaprio make one hot chick?

MELL CMYK

Life in Iraq beats Vietnam experience, vets say

By MONTE MORIN
(C) 2004, LOS ANGELES TIMES

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Before Staff Sgt. Carlys Peters flew home from his first war more than 30 years ago, the Army gave him some advice: Don't wear your uniform in public.

"Coming back from Vietnam, people considered us drug addicts, alcoholics, rapists, murderers," Peters said. "At (the Los Angeles airport), they were shouting and spitting on us. ... After that, I didn't tell people I was in Vietnam."

Now, at 52, the California National Guardsman finds himself in Baghdad, midway through his second war. This time around, though, Peters said he was received very differently when he returned home to California on leave a few months ago. "People said hi to me and waved. It's nice to have people welcome you back. I'll say that much."

For Vietnam veterans like him, the Iraq war has been more a study of contrasts than an episode of deja vu. Whether it's the terrain, the technology, the food or the enemy's skill, there's little that's similar between the two, they say. Maybe the only thing that hasn't changed is Peters' fatalism.

"I'm not as nervous as these younger guys are," he said. "My philosophy is, if anything happens, it's gonna happen. Like we said in Vietnam, 'It ain't nothing but a thing.""

About 40,000 of the U.S. troops in Iraq are from the National Guard, a force whose members are older on average than regular Army troops and more likely to include Vietnam veterans. According to Pentagon statistics, only 6 percent of regular Army troops are older than 40, compared with 22 percent of Guard members. Military spokesmen in Iraq said they had no statistics on how many Vietnam vets were serving there.

Peters is one of two Vietnam veterans assigned to the Riverside, Calif-based Bravo Company of the 1-160th Infantry Regiment, a group of 97 men known as "Maddogs." The company's first sergeant, Paul Balboa, 57, served four combat tours in Southeast Asia as well and spent much of that time with the Special Forces.

Attached to the 1st Cavalry Division, the Maddogs provide armed escorts for U.S. Embassy personnel, Iraqi officials and truck convoys. They ride Iraq's most dangerous roads on a regular basis and have encountered their share of roadside bombs and mortar attacks, rocket-propelled-grenade ambushes and small-arms fire. But after more than five months in Iraq, the Maddogs have yet to suffer a fatality.

Balboa, a Moreno Valley, Calif., resident, said that in Iraq, the enemy is far less skillful than in Vietnam. But the insurgents are learning from their mistakes.

"Their attacks are well planned but poorly executed, and they're not very good shots," he said. "But they're getting better and better. Here and there, they're acquiring one or two really good ones."

Balboa worked for the phone company more than 30 years, retiring a month after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to work full time in the Guard. The patriotism that inspired him and many others in the company to volunteer has resulted in high morale, he said—another contrast with the Vietnam War.

"People were in Vietnam because

US Marines of the 1st Division train in an abandoned primary school outside Fallujah, Iraq, Monday, Nov. 1, 2004.

AP



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Staff Sgt. Carlys Peters, second from left, and 1st Sgt. Paul Balboa, right, go over a map with other troops. The two men, both older than 50, have seen warfare in Vietnam as well as Iraq. Though they are ribbed about their age, they have much to teach.

People were in Vietnam because they had to be. They were drafted," said Balboa, who volunteered for the military. "Nowadays, we're here because we want to be here. Whether it's because they want to do their duty or they're looking for adventure."

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The Maddogs are quartered in an underground parking garage that reportedly housed a fleet of cars plundered from Kuwait by Saddam Hussein's sons, Uday and Qusai. Unlike the field tents that Peters and Balboa used in Vietnam, the platoon bays in Iraq are loaded with modern conveniences—televisions, DVD players, video games, leather couches and seats, refrigerators, stereos and Internet connections.

Instead of the leftover World War II C-rations and stringy water buffalo that soldiers often ate in Vietnam, GIs in Iraq enjoy hot meals in air-conditioned dining facilities. The Maddogs' chow hall offers a weekly Surf and Turf night, with steak and lobster tails.

And although Peters and Balboa would wait months for mail to find them in Vietnam and were rarely afforded the chance to call home, troops in Iraq are in constant contact with their families.

"It's a little bit too much, but it's good for the soldiers because they're not dwelling on things," Balboa said. "Also, if there is a problem at home, you can take care of it right away."

After a day of riding shotgun with truck convoys, Bravo Company soldiers are likely to unwind by popping a movie into a DVD player or playing video games—more wholesome forms of release than those relied upon in Vietnam. In that war, beer was sometimes brought to troops in the bush by helicopter. But Iraq has been declared a no-booze zone, and troops face harsh punishment if caught drinking.

"Back then, every base had a sin city," Balboa said. "Drinking, smoking and womanizing was the way we were then. Now, that's unheard of."

Many members of Bravo are decades younger than Peters and Balboa, and Peters endures constant ribbing about his age. Soldiers ask him to describe famous Civil War battles and call him Grandpa. Behind all the joking, however, is a deep respect, soldiers say.

"I look up to him," said Spc. Brandon Doyel, 22, of Palm Springs, Calif. "I don't tell him that, because I don't want to pump him up too much, but I take what he says to heart."

"When I first saw him, I said, 'Who is this old bastard?' But then I saw his combat patches and realized he'd been through a lot."

Peters is scheduled to return home, along with Balboa and the rest of the Maddogs, in about six months. His stint in Iraq has been very different from his service in Vietnam, but he hopes one thing ends up the same—that he makes it back without a Purple Heart.

"I made it through Vietnam without a scratch," he said, "and I'm going to make it through this without a scratch."

When great visuals are combined with great music, the effect is nothing short of magic. Next time you're at the theater, don't just watch—listen. You may be opening yourself up to a whole new world of enjoyment at the multiplex



By JOE WEINDLSpecial to the
Saipan Tribune

WALLACE





By JOE WEINDLSpecial to the
Saipan Tribune

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Man must give up obsession with wife's married daughter

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: I have a problem I can't discuss with my family. I am 45 years old, married for 12 years, and I am in love with my wife's daughter from her first marriage. "Danica" is 24 and married. I have had these feelings for her for quite some time. Danica is fun to be around and very pretty when she smiles. We have talked when she has been over to visit her mother, and she drives me crazy. My wife says I have a crush on her daugh-



WearHoby

ter. Thank God she doesn't know how much.

I asked Danica out to dinner one night, just the two of us. It was going well until I spilled my guts and told her how I felt about her. She was shocked. The only thing she said was I was married to her mother and she was married. I asked her if she had anything else to say, and she replied that she didn't know what to say. Needless to say, the rest of the night didn't go well. I took her to her car and told her the offer was always open.

Four days latter, I sent her a dozen red roses with a card that said, "Let's be friends." I tried to call her, but she said she didn't feel comfortable talking to me. Now she treats me like I have the plague. What should I do? Just wait, and pray she'll talk to me?

SMITTEN IN SAN ANTONIO

DEAR SMITTEN: No. The first thing you should do is take a cold shower and wake up. You have slipped from fantasy into obsession, created a rift in the family and made a fool of yourself. Stop with the calls and roses. You and Danica will never be "friends" now that your inappropriate feelings are out in the open. If you can't let go of this, please talk to a mental health professional.

DEAR ABBY: Please accept my apology for thinking that every time you advise counseling you were "passing the buck." After years of abuse and three nightmare marriages, I am finally finding myself through psychiatric care.

After my husband of 27 years left me, I was shattered—terrified. I couldn't stop crying. I made a desperate call to a mental health hotline and was advised to go to the nearest emergency hospital. My physician met me there and I admitted myself to their psychiatric ward. It was the beginning of a new life.

Everyone I encountered, from the person in admitting to the doctors and nurses, the staff and other patients, helped me. I started to heal. The classes were extremely helpful. The counselors were truly giving and caring. I signed myself out after five days, but continue going in for weekly counseling. My counselor recently told me I would make a great counselor.

I will soon begin taking courses at my local college to become certified. And now that I am healing, I'm doing volunteer work in mental health care and awareness. My goal is to make the public realize the importance of mental health.

I have learned you can live in fear or reach out for help. There is no reason for anyone to suffer when help is close at hand. There are toll-free hotline numbers for crisis intervention.

Thank you for always being there, Abby. I know you were there for me.

SUNSHINE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR SUNSHINE: Thank YOU for sharing your personal success. When you were in crisis, you were wise to recognize it for what it was and get help. There should be no shame in such a positive, life-affirming act.

Another valuable resource for the mentally ill is an organization called the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI). It offers emotional and educational support to people—and families—with all the major mental disorders. Its toll-free number is (800) 950-6264. The Web site is www.nami.org.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Simpson, Lachey report happy marriage

NEW YORK (AP)—Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey, stars of "Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica," want everyone to know they're happily married. The couple, who celebrated their second wedding anniversary on Oct. 26, are taping a new season of their MTV reality series and will star in their second ABC variety show in December.

Yes, Simpson tells People magazine, they get into arguments.

"What married couple doesn't?" the 24-year-old singer says. "You don't want to marry somebody who's just like you. So there are always going to be conflicts. That's what compromise is all about. It means that we're communicating."

And Lachey, 30, says he isn't jealous of his wife's popularity.

"There's no bigger supporter in Jessica's life than me," he tells the magazine. "Her success is my success. Marriage is a team effort. Both of us share that philosophy."



As to reports that their marriage is on the rocks, Simpson says: "Our relationship is better than it's ever been. We are absolutely not breaking up."

"This is a great time in our lives and careers," Lachey says.

Meanwhile, Simpson, who will play Daisy Duke in the upcoming "The Dukes of Hazzard" movie, has come to the defense of her 20-year-old sister, Ashlee, who was recently busted for a "Saturday Night Live" lip-synch gone awry.

"Ashlee is an amazingly talented person," she told the "Access Hollywood" syndicated entertainment TV show. "She's already sold 3 million records, which is more than I sold in two years. She's proven herself."

Singer Jessica Simpson and her husband, singer Nick Lachey, arrive at the MTV Music Awards in Miami, on Aug. 29, 2004.

'Jeopardy!' champ breaks earnings record

NEW YORK (AP)—Quizshow king Ken Jennings has broken another record on "Jeopardy!" He won \$45,099 on the episode that aired Wednesday, bringing his total earnings to \$2,197,000 to make him the top TV game-show winner ever.

He beat the previous record of \$2,180,000, set by Michigan engineer Kevin Olmstead on ABC's "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" in 2001.

Jennings, a 30-year-old software engineer from Salt

Lake City, began his 66-appearances-and-counting streak on the episode that aired June 2. Since then, he has richly profited from a rule change made only last year, at the start of the syndicated game show's 20th season, that removed its five-appearance limit. Now a contestant can continue playing as long as he wins.

On the "Jeopardy!" episode that aired Sept. 15, Jennings broke the record for longest winning streak on any television game show.

Where might it all stop? No one's confirmed it, but TV Week reported in September that Jennings lost after his 75th straight win, amassing a total of about \$2.5 million. "Jeopardy!" episodes are taped in advance.

During the streak, Jennings has appeared on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," presented a Top Ten list on "Late Show with David Letterman," and been a "Person of the Week" on ABC's "World News Tonight."

He has defeated 130 challeng-

ers and given more than 2,000 correct responses, including Wednesday's Final Jeopardy question, for which the clue was: "This king was the great-grandfather of France's King Louis XV."

Jennings sweetened his day's total take by \$7,499 with his reply: "Who is Louis XIV?"

Besting Olmstead's record had been Jennings' goal "for a while," he told host Alex Trebek, adding, "I actually know Dr. Olmstead a little bit, and he's been very supportive."

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Actress Duke has heart bypass surgery

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho (AP)—Oscarwinner Patty Duke underwent single bypass surgery Wednesday and was in fair condition, officials said.

The 57-year-old actress was in the intensive care unit at the North Idaho Heart Center.

"Her husband said everything went well," said Kootenai Medical Center spokeswoman Teri Farr. The heart center is part of the medical facility.

Last spring, the actress was admitted to the center for insertion of a stent in one of her arteries to improve blood flow.

Duke was expected to recover in time to serve as chairwoman for the Nov. 26-29 Festival of Trees; proceeds benefit the heart center. She lives in the area with her husband, Mike Pearce.

Beach Boys monument to be dedicated

HAWTHORNE, Calif. (AP)—Just a few miles from the surf and sand the Beach Boys celebrated, the city will dedicate a monument where Brian, Carl and Dennis Wilson grew up.

California Historical Landmark No. 1041 will be dedicated on May 20.

The Wilson home was razed to make room for the Century Freeway, so the monument will sit at the end of dead-end 119th Street next to a sound wall built to mute traffic noise.

The effort to get landmark status for the

Wilson home site was led by Harry Jarnagan, a construction engineer and Beach Boys fan from Tracy, Calif. In August, the California Historical Landmark Commission approved Jarnagan's application.

Brosnan hopes Farrell will play Bond

LONDON (AP)—Yes, Pierce Brosnan really hopes fellow Irish actor Colin Farrell will replace him one day as superspy James Bond in the 007 movies.

Last weekend, Brosnan said several actors could ably fill his shoes as Bond, "but I'll give it to Colin Farrell. He'll eat the head off them all."

He echoed those comments Tuesday night while attending the premiere of his new movie, "After the Sunset," directed by Brett Ratner and also starring Salma Hayek, Woody Harrelson and Don Cheadle.

Brosnan, 51, played Bond in the last four 007 films, which he began in 1995 with "GoldenEye" and concluded with 2000's "Die Another Day."

Farrell, 28, appeared with Tom Cruise in the 2002 sci-fi thriller "Minority Report," and has the title role in Oliver Stone's upcoming "Alexander."

LL Cool J cancels shows due to illness

NEW YORK (AP)—LL Cool J has canceled the remaining 12 dates on his tour due to an abdominal ailment.

"I am extremely disappointed to have to cancel the rest of this fun and successful tour," the 36-year-old rapper-actor said in a statement. "I apologize for disappointing my fans who have already bought tickets."

No additional information was available Tuesday about his illness. A release from his publicist said he is under a doctor's care and requires medication and rest.

Refunds can be sought at the point of purchase.

P. Diddy plans a-list 35th birthday party

NEW YORK (AP)—Sean "P. Diddy" Combs plans to celebrate his 35th birthday Thursday with an A-list, ultra-exclusive, all-night party.

P. Diddy's party, dubbed a "Royal Birthday Ball," was billed as "his biggest, most lavish soiree to date." Among those expected to attend the event at downtown's Cipriani's restaurant were Mariah Carey, Vivica A. Fox, Spike Lee, Sarah Jessica Parker, Chris Rock and Stevie Wonder.

But Combs says the real celebration will begin when he's finally able to sleep.

"I wanna be able to lay down," the rap mogul/actor/fashion designer told The Associated Press Wednesday.

"In this one year, I've run a marathon, I did Broadway, signed on for a movie to do 'Carlito's Way: The Beginning,' won men's designer of the year, opened up a store on Fifth Avenue, got the youth vote out - and now it's my birthday," Combs said.

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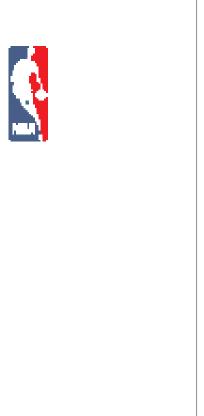
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Pastimes









TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

SPORTS TRANSACTIONS

MLI

HOUSTON ASTROS-Fired Jimy Williams, manager; Burt Hooton, pitching coach; and Harry Spilman, hitting coach. Named Phil Garner manager, Jim Hickey pitching coach, and Gary Gaetti hitting coach.

NRΔ

ATLANTA HAWKS-Signed C Jason Collier.

BOSTON CELTICS-Re-signed C Mark Blount to a six-year contract. CHARLOTTE BOBCATS-Signed G Jason Hart and F Tamar Slay.

DALLAS MAVERICKS-Re-signed G Marquis Daniels to a five-year contract with a team option.

DETROIT PISTONS-Signed F Antonio McDyess to a four-year contract with a team option and G-F Carlos Delfino to a three-year contract with a team option.

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS-Resigned C Adonal Foyle to a six-year contract.

LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS-Traded F-C Melvin Ely and G Eddie House to Charlotte for 2005 and 2006 second-round draft picks.

LOS ANGELES LAKERS-Traded C Shaquille O'Neal to Miami for F Lamar Odom, F Caron Butler, F-C Brian Grant and a future first-round draft pick.

MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES-Signed F Brian Cardinal to a six-year contract.

MILWAUKEE BUCKS-Signed C Etan Thomas to a six-year offer sheet.

PHILADELPHIA 76ERS-Signed F Brian Skinner to a multiyear contract.

PHOENIX SUNS-Signed G Quentin Richardson to a six-year offer sheet. Signed G Steve Nash to a six-yar contract.

SAN ANTONIO SPURS-Re-signed F Bruce Bowen. Signed G Beno Lidrih

TORONTO RAPTORS-Signed G Rafer Alston to a five-year contract. UTAH JAZZ-Signed F Carlos Boozer and C Mehmet Okur to six-year offer sheets. Re-signed G Carlos Arroyo to a four-year contract.

NFL

GREEN BAY PACKERS-Voided the trade of DE Jamal Reynolds to Indianapolis after Reynolds failed his physical and waived him.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS-Released S Jason Perry.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES-Signed G Adrien Clarke to a four-year contract and LB Jeremiah Trotter to a one-year contract.

Olympics

U.S. OLYMPIC MEN'S ROAD CYCLING TEAM-Announced Levi Leipheimer will replace Lance Armstrong.

College

AUBURN-Named Casey Dunn assistant baseball coach.

DARTMOUTH-Named Maribel

Sanchez Souther women's cross country coach.

EVERGREEN STATE-Named Kim Farnsworth athletic trainer. HOUSTON-Named John Sever-

ance women's tennis coach.

N.J. CITY-Named Bridgette Qui-

mpo softball coach.

NORTH DAKOTA STATE-Named

Eric Viney women's assistant volleyball coach.

NORTHWESTERN-Announced

men's junior basketball F Bernard Cote will transfer from Kentucky. OKLAHOMA-Named Bill Pink director of women's basketball operations.

PALM BEACH ATLANTIC-Announced the resignation of Chris Bizol, men's and women's tennis coach, to take a position with Texas-Tyler.

RHODE ISLAND-Announced

RHODE ISLAND-Announced the resignation of Boe Pearman, women's basketball coach.

SANTA CLARA-Named M. Felipe Montoro assistant cross country coach and Steve Drake women's assistant basketball coach.

SETON HALL-Named Gerson Echeverry men's assistant soccer coach.

SKIDMORE-Named Darren Bennett women's basketball coach.
ST. FRANCIS, PA.-Named Wylie

Crisanti women's lacrosse coach. TULSA-Named Christy Connoyer softball coach. WRIGHT STATE-Named Rob Coo-

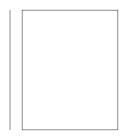
per baseball coach.

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

RESTAURANT LEAGUE STANDINGS

Angel Wings	3	0	
Country House	3	1	
Jollibee	3	1	
Capricciosa	2	1	
Keeraku	1	2	
LSG Sky Chefs	0	3	
El Segundo	0	4	





SAIPAN TRIBUNE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2003